



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Under the Dakota Sky: An Exhibition Celebrating 125 Years of Statehood**

The North Dakota Art Gallery Association (NDAGA) and the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), with support from Starion Financial, organized this exhibition to celebrate 125 years of statehood for North Dakota. Opening during the signature event on the Capitol Mall Friday, August 16, this exhibition presents artists' work with a strong connection to North Dakota. *Under the Dakota Sky* showcases many of North Dakota's finest creative personalities, including contemporary and traditional artists hailing from all corners of the state. The artwork will be on display in the Missouri River Events Center at the North Dakota Heritage Center through October 23, 2014.

"The North Dakota Council on the Arts is pleased to contribute to North Dakota's 125<sup>th</sup> celebration of statehood and the *Under the Dakota Sky* art exhibit. The works of art on display showcase a wide variety of art disciplines, exceptional North Dakota artists, and our state's rich artistic heritage. I hope all those with a love of our state and the special art produced here will visit the exhibit!"

~ NDCA Executive Director, Beth Gigante Klingenstein, PhD

*Under the Dakota Sky* is not only about sharing the artwork in this exhibition, but also about changing perceptions and developing images that communicate more completely the North Dakota experience. It is about raising the visibility of many excellent North Dakota artists. It's about living in and creating artwork in a rural state, which can be both advantageous and challenging. It's about appreciating these artists and recognizing what a great asset they are to our state and our communities.

Art lovers are encouraged to let others know how much they appreciate the role the arts can and do play in North Dakota's wellbeing, community pride, tourism and economic development.

Images of the artwork can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/NDCouncilontheArts>.

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*The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.*